



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	CalFire Dozer Training in TUU		
PROJECT LOCATION	South of Eshom Valley Road Township 15S; Range 28E; Sec. 19 and 20 MDM	COUNTY	Tulare
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)		
CONTACT	David Shy, Unit Forester Tulare Unit Headquarters	PHONE	(559) 636-4146
ADDRESS	1968 South Lovers Lane, Visalia CA, 93292		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves field training exercises for CalFire Heavy Fire Equipment Operators (HFEOs) to improve proficiency for dozer operation, familiarization and fire preparedness. The students will remove the brush and grass to simulate fire line construction. The training will be required for all HFEOs to sufficiently demonstrate safe bulldozer operations on each make/model of bulldozer that they would be expected to operate. The training shall include loading and unloading, bulldozer winching, day and night operations with varying topography and fuel types, tandem operations, erosion control, fire suppression repair, and safety island construction. The training exercises will take place on approximately 200 acres of private property in the rural part of Tulare County. Minimal soil disturbance will occur. All watercourses will be given the same protection as in the California Forest Practice Rules. No activity will take place in the stream buffer zones and there will be no stream crossings constructed. No activity will take place on any steep pitches over 50% in slope or when soils are saturated.

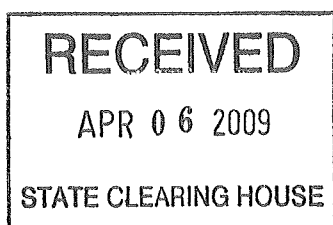
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 14 CCR §15304 – Minor Alterations to Land;
7 14 CCR §15307 Protection of Natural Resources
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project involves only minor alterations to the existing conditions of the land and vegetation designed to establish a more natural vegetative condition with a reduced fire risk. The Unit Environmental Coordinator has completed a limited environmental review including consultations with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Department's Archaeologist. This review indicated that sensitive areas will be protected through avoidance, the project is exempt, and no special circumstances or sensitive areas will be affected. Documentation of the environmental review is on file at CalFire's Tulare Unit Headquarters in Visalia. No significant environmental impact is anticipated from this project.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING




William E. Snyder, Deputy Director 4/3/09
Date